

A new mite of the genus *Phytoseiulus* Evans (Acarina: Phytoseiidae) from Southern Rhodesia.

by

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In 1952, I proposed the genus *Phytoseiulus* for the reception of *Phytoseiulus speyeri* Evans (= *Laelaps macropilis* Banks, 1906), a phytoseiid mite associated with tetranychids on tomato plants in the Canary Islands. As in other species of the family, *P. speyeri* lacks the full complement of setae on the dorsum. The genus was characterised by the chaetotactic pattern of the dorsal shield and the form of the shield surrounding the anus in the female. Recently, Athias-Henriot (1957) has added a second species to the genus, *Phytoseiulus persimilis*.

These species together with a new species from S. Rhodesia, described below, may be distinguished as follows:

Key to the females of the genus *Phytoseiulus*

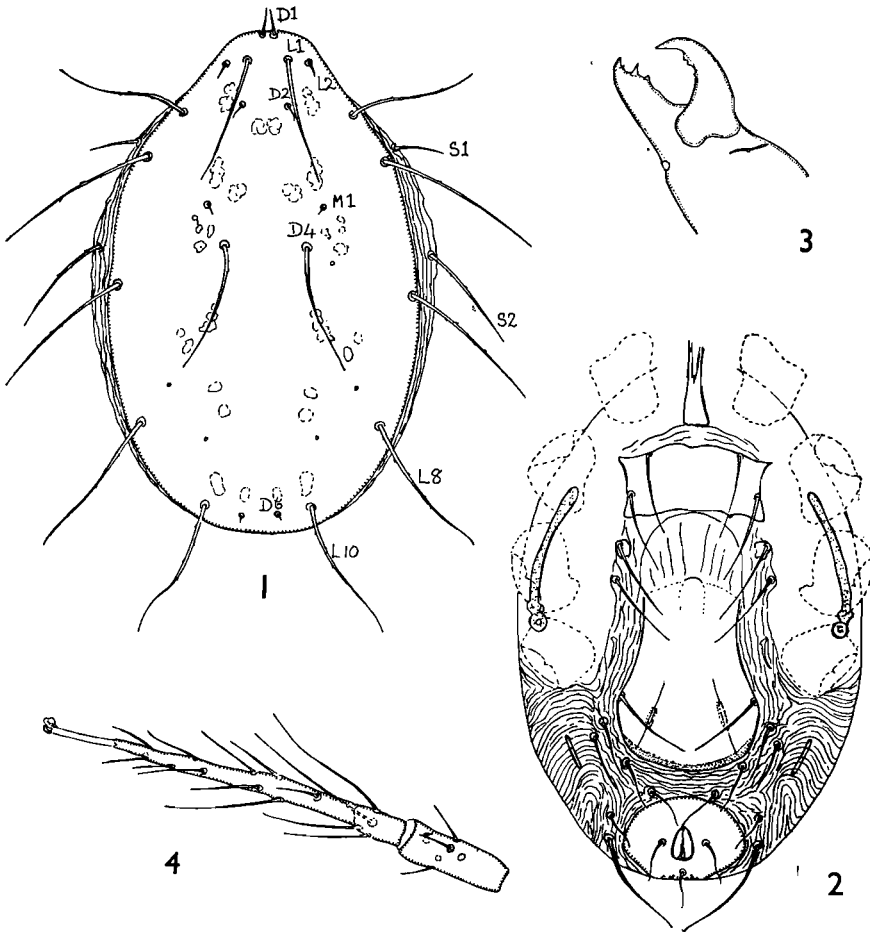
1. Dorsal shield with 8 pairs of setae in the lateral series (L) and with D3 present; sternal shield with three pairs of setae; peritreme extending to coxa I 2
- Dorsal shield with only 7 pairs of setae in the lateral series (L) and without D4; sternal shield with only two pairs of setae (fig. 2); peritreme short and thick, extending to the middle of coxa II. S. Rhodesia **longipes** sp.n.
2. With a ventri-anal shield bearing a pair of preanal setae; anterior margin of the sternal shield slightly convex but entire. N. America, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Canary Island **macropilis** (Banks)
- With an anal shield provided with the normal three setae; anterior margin of the sternal shield with a median depression. Algeria. **persimilis** A-Henriot

Phytoseiulus longipes sp.n.

Female: Dorsal shield (300-330 μ in length and 200-210 μ . in breadth) with 12 pairs of setae distributed as in fig. 1. The dorsal series (D) consists of only four pairs of setae. D3, present in other species of the genus, is not

developed with the result that the dorsal hexagon normally formed by setae D3, M1 and D4 is also lacking. The surface of the shield is without any definite ornamentation. Two setae (S1 and S2) are present on the lateral interscutal membrane.

The sternal shield is rectangular in outline and carries only two pairs of sternal setae. Sternal setae III are situated on platelets posterior to the sternal shield whereas the metasternals lie free on the striated cuticle. The



Phytoseiulus longipes sp.n., female.

Fig. 1. Dorsum.

Fig. 2. Venter.

Fig. 3. Chelicera.

Fig. 4. Tibia and tarsus IV.

genital shield is large with its posterior margin slightly convex. The sternal, metasternal and genital setae, are long and slender. The form of the anal shield and the chaetotaxy of the strongly striated cuticle posterior to coxae IV are shown in fig. 2. The peritremes are short and thick, and, unlike other species of the genus, extend only to the middle of coxae II. The lacinae of the tritosternum are short and setose.

All the legs are slender and each terminates in a well-developed pretarsus provided with a pulvillus and claws. Legs IV are extremely long (550 μ including the coxa and pretarsus). The setation of tibia and tarsus IV is as in fig. 3.

The gnathosoma and pedipalps are normal for the family although the corniculi are not as strongly convergent as in *Typhlodromus* Scheuten. The digits of the chelicera are relatively short (fig. 4).

Locality: Two females (holotype: 1957:12:19:1 and paratype: 1957:12:19:2) associated with *Tetranychus* sp. on "foxglove", Salisbury, S. Rhodesia. The material was received through the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology.

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